

FIRST WOMAN OF THE ARMY SOCIAL CIRCLE

Charming Personality of Mrs. Adna R. Chaffee, Wife of the New Chief of Staff. Her Home in Washington and Its Unique Treasures.

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A NEW queen has lately come to reign in the social domain made up of the households of the officers of the United States Army, and it may be said without the slightest fear of exaggeration that had especial fitness to wield this social scepter been the sole consideration a search of the entire country would have disclosed no other woman so admirably adapted to the task as Mrs. Adna R. Chaffee. Mrs. Chaffee's accession to this position of many social responsibilities is a particularly welcome one to the folk in military circles and in official life generally. General Young, who has just been superseded as chief of staff by General Chaffee, while a very hospitable man, is a widower, and consequently not in a position to take the lead in those social activities which are the breath of life to the mothers and sisters, wives, daughters, and sweethearts of Uncle Sam's military heroes.

Many Social Duties.

Assuredly, however, no claim can be made that Mrs. Chaffee is shirking any of the duties incumbent upon the mistress of the first household of the army. She said the other day: "I am making anywhere from eight to twenty-one calls a day, in addition, of course, to dinner and other engagements, and I see no prospect of a respite in this social campaign ere the end of the official season, late in February." Mrs. Chaffee is also holding each month two great receptions, which are virtually semi-public levees, in that every woman connected with the army feels invited to call upon the ranking hostess of the military contingent on these "at home" days.

Beautiful New Home.

Mrs. Chaffee's new home in Washington is a nook to delight every feminine heart, and to interest most masculine visitors as well. It is not, it may be explained, a house, but an immense suite in the Highlands, a fashionable



MRS. CHAFFEE'S APARTMENTS AT "THE HIGHLANDS."

new apartment house in the very heart of what is rapidly becoming the most attractive residential section of Washington—a hostelry which shelters a whole "colony" of army and navy folk, including the attaches of several of the foreign diplomatic establishments. Here Mrs. Chaffee has at her disposal as many guest chambers with private baths as would be found in a very large house, a large private dining room, cloak and retiring rooms for use at receptions, and spacious drawing rooms, while General Chaffee has a "den" with all the office conveniences which enable him to work at home almost as well as at the War Department.

In explaining her conversion to flat life Mrs. Chaffee said: "In the twenty-eight years of my married life we have moved our household belongings twenty-one times, not merely transitions from one city house to another but journey-

ings from city to city or army post to army post. Can you wonder then that I have welcomed the prospect of a couple of years of comparative freedom from care ere we take a house in Washington."

Treasures From the Orient.

Although Mrs. Chaffee holds up her hands in horror at mention of the losses by breakage and otherwise which have been inflicted upon her household treasures during the memorable score of moves above mentioned there remain enough possessions quaint and interesting and unique to render the Chaffee home one of the most notable in Washington. The walls are hung with a marvelous collection of exceptionally fine specimens of Chinese embroidery upon silk, including the famous embroidered umbrellas presented to General Chaffee by the high officials of China in recognition of his prohibition of looting

while in command of the American troops at the time of the Boxer revolt.

On every hand are rare and costly Chinese porcelains, richly carved and inlaid teakwood tables and cabinets, and elaborate screens, all obtained during General Chaffee's stay in China, and most of them presents from native potentates or officers of foreign forces in the allied army. Here also are two novel bamboo chairs with immense spreading backs manufactured by inmates of a prison at Manila, an immense variety of bolos, a splendid mahogany cabinet from Cuba filled with rare old fans, Indian baskets and blankets, autographed photographs, and a thousand and one other interesting souvenirs of General Chaffee's years of campaigning in two hemispheres.

Mrs. Chaffee is certain to prove one of the most popular and successful hostesses who ever entered official so-



MRS. CHAFFEE.

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ciety at the Capital of the nation. She will win the regard of people from all sections of Uncle Sam's domain, for having lived in all parts of the country she is utterly devoid of narrowness or provincialism in any form. Best of all, in this age when simplicity of manner is so rare a jewel is the fact that she is utterly devoid of pose and affectation. In a word, she demonstrates conclusively the possibilities of a combination of culture and refinement with charming democracy and constitutes a perfect example of the ideal type of American womanhood.

In personal appearance Mrs. Chaffee is of medium height, slender and graceful. She has blue eyes, light hair, touched with gray, and a fair complexion. A person meeting her for the first time is likely to be strongly impressed with her soft, musical voice and reposeful manner. Mrs. Chaffee is a woman who

dresses in exquisite taste. The gown shown in the accompanying portrait is one which was embroidered for her in Japan.

A Romantic Marriage.

Mrs. Chaffee is the general's second wife, and back of their marriage was a pretty little romance. Mrs. Chaffee's ancestors were all New Englanders, but the later generations of the family, like many another, drifted Westward, and the former Miss Annie Rockwell was born and her girlhood was spent in Illinois. Then her father removed to Kansas, and it was here that Prince Charming came upon the scene. In the uniform of a United States Army officer, Miss Rockwell was a girl in school when the dashing Chaffee was first detailed to Fort Riley, but Cupid's shaft was winged in short order, and a few years later, or in 1855, the couple were married at Junction City.

An Ideal Type of American Womanhood, She Has Resided in All Parts of the United States—Has Broad Sympathy for Soldier Boys.

Speaking of the years gone by, Mrs. Chaffee remarked: "What shall I say of my life? What is the life of any army wife but that of the garrison—a willingness to overlook the inconveniences of a nomadic existence in order that she may be with those she loves. I have lived in New York, Philadelphia, Denver, Los Angeles, and a number of other American cities, as well as various army posts not adjacent to any large community. I was for almost two years in Cuba, and about an equal length of time in the Philippines. I did not accompany the general to China, at the time of the Boxer revolt, but I paid a little visit to Shanghai while he was stationed in the Philippines."

Popular in the Philippines.

Just here it may be noted parenthetically that Mrs. Chaffee was by far the most popular American woman who has ever been in official society in the Philippines. With that instinctive thought for the happiness of others which is second nature to her, she gave a great ball for all the officers and their wives on the first Monday of each month, and supplementing these with small dances, teas, and other hospitalities, she did her full share to remove any suspicion of monotony from the lives of the men and women who, though beneath the Stars and Stripes, felt themselves in a measure exiled from "God's country."

The Chaffees have three children. The eldest daughter is the wife of Capt. George F. Hamilton, who served in Cuba during the Spanish-American war as an aide to General Chaffee. The second daughter, Helen, aged fifteen years, is in school in New York. The only son, Adna R. Chaffee, Jr., who is now in his second year at West Point bears a striking resemblance to his father. Although rather mourning the fact that none of her children can be with her in the new home at Washington, Mrs. Chaffee is more than enthusiastic over the fact that her son has been enabled to enter West Point. Said she, in speaking of it: "If I had six sons, I should want them all to be in the army."

STRANGE HISTORY OF MENELIK, KING OF ABYSSINIA

THERE is some likelihood that a "lineal descendant of King Solomon and the Queen of Sheba" will be one of the special guests at the world's fair in St. Louis. In that event the presence of an ordinary scion of modern royalty, such as the Prince of Wales, or the Crown Prince of Germany, will be of comparatively insignificant interest. This extraordinarily interesting personage is the Emperor Menelik of Abyssinia, to whose capital and court a special envoy of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition and of the President of the United States was sent, bearing an invitation engraved in solid silver for his personal attendance and the participation of his nation in the great fair.

A Descendant of Solomon.

If Menelik II is a descendant of Solomon, as he avers and as more or less authenticated history affirms, he is therefore, also descended from King David, that doughty and strenuous David who slew the terrible giant Goliath with a pebble from his sling; what inhabitant of western Christendom, then, would care to devote special attention to a son of Edward VII or of William II, when a son of David and Solomon, occupying a throne that was ancient before the building of the temple of Jerusalem, may be seen in breathing flesh?

Robert P. Skinner, United States consul general at Marseilles, France, is now at Addis-Ababa, capital of Abyssinia, having just presented an invitation to King Menelik to the World's Fair. Consul General Skinner will also set forth, on behalf of the United States Government, the advantages of a commercial treaty with this country and present arguments to show why Abyssinia should be represented by an exhibit at the fair.

Consul Skinner's Visit to Menelik.

Mr. Skinner's equipment for the trip to Addis-Ababa was provided by the navy, a ship of the European squadron bearing him to Djibouti, the French port of Africa, opposite Aden. From there he traveled over the French railroad to Harar, where he engaged camels and native porters to take him over the plains to Menelik's capital. The overland trip required from sixteen to twenty days, the distance being nearly 200 miles. The people are noted for their hospitality, and Mr. Skinner could have traveled alone but for the fact that the natives would consider him of no importance if he lacked a caravan. All officials and personages of importance travel with caravans in that country.

Consul General Skinner, in addition to presenting the World's Fair invitation, is endeavoring to induce Menelik to enter a commercial treaty with the United States. Representatives of France, Italy, Germany, and Great Britain are being permanently established at the capital of Abyssinia, and it is felt that the United States should

have a representative there. It is known that Menelik feels kindly disposed toward the United States.

America's Interests in Abyssinia.

"The interests of the United States," says Mr. Skinner, "are probably greater than those of all other powers combined. These conditions are entirely due to the efforts of individual traders. We have no representative, either diplomatically or commercially, in this empire of 10,000,000 people. It will be my object to show to Menelik the advantages his country and ours will gain by the establishment of recognized rights to trade and residence, and to define the benefits to both nations of opening up trade relations. I will tell him that we want the products of his country and desire to sell him our products through resident American merchants. For a long time the Abyssinians have been buying our cotton and staple articles. Our merchants should be permitted to settle in Abyssinia and buy direct ivory, hides, carpets, wools, and other products. If I am successful that country will for the first time send a deputation to the United States, and the World's Fair will have an Abyssinian exhibit of unique interest."

Personal Note From Mr. Roosevelt.

In addition to the elaborate invitation engraved on silver, Mr. Skinner presented to Menelik a letter from President Roosevelt. In the President's own handwriting. That this letter is calculated to impress the ruler of Abyssinia is not doubted by anyone who knows the King's warm admiration for President Roosevelt.

Until a year or so ago Menelik knew but little of Roosevelt. About that time he introduced into his palace as a piano player, a young American girl of musical talents. The young woman was an admirer of the President, and it appears that she found occasion to tell Menelik something about Roosevelt's vigorous personality.

The dusky Emperor was deeply interested. He called for more and his American musician sent for a biography of Roosevelt. The Emperor expressed the liveliest interest in the physical activities of the President, as told in the book, and caused translation of the work to be published and circulated among his subjects.

Menelik Hears of San Juan.

It is said that Roosevelt's personal participation in battle at San Juan Hill made Menelik his enthusiastic admirer, for the Abyssinian ruler likes that sort of a thing immensely. One must not forget that in the fierce battle at Adowa a few years ago, where the Abyssinian forces utterly routed a large army of Italians, killing 10,000 men, Menelik himself rushed into the conflict near its close, brandished a big sword, and killed a number of Italians with his own blade.

Menelik is Africa's powerful monarch. Other rulers of realms in the Dark Continent have been subdued by the Euro-

pean powers and their domain annexed as colonies or dependencies. The superiority of the Caucasian blood and civilization has not availed in the case of Abyssinia, which has proved an obstinate and unyielding defender of its sovereignty. Italy for a time exercised a certain degree of suzerainty over the country, but the manner in which Menelik's soldiers checked a further encroachment is still fresh in the public mind, which has not yet finished gasping in astonishment at the fighting qualities exhibited by the Ethiopians and the craft and courage of their ruler.

Opposed Cecil Rhodes.

It was Menelik, who has occupied the throne for sixteen years, who stood stubbornly in the path and defeated the cherished "Cape to Cairo" dream of the late Cecil Rhodes. Like his reputed forefather, David of Biblical times, Menelik is not afraid to go out and meet giants who seek to trespass upon his territory, and thus far no Goliath of the white man's powers has succeeded in conquering or intimidating the Abyssinian monarch.

The story of Menelik's descent from King Solomon is romantic enough to engage the talents of a capable novelist. It is surprising that thus far no ambitious fictionist has worked up legends book covers the semi-sacred, semi-legendary, half-historical, half-legendary account of the Queen of Sheba's visit to Solomon the Wise and its resultant effect upon that vast territory known to the ancients as Ethiopia. The barest outlines of the story serve to show its possibilities.

Menelik's Ancestry.

Three thousand years ago King Solomon, whom the catchword still sets forth as the wisest man of all time, despite his thousand wives, reigned in splendor over Judea. The Bible tells us of the magnificence of his court and the glories of his temple. Contemporary with Solomon was a beautiful queen who ruled a country known as Sheba, the present-day Abyssinia. In her capital at Sheba there came to her wonderful accounts of the magnificence of Solomon's court. The Queen of Sheba resolved to go and see for herself these kingly splendors. It was a journey of 1,300 miles, but the Queen set out with a great caravan of camels and courtiers to pay a visit to Solomon. In the Bible we read:

"For when the Queen of Sheba heard of the fame of Solomon, she came to prove Solomon with hard questions at Jerusalem, with a very great company and camels that bear spices and gold in abundance, and precious stones; and when she came to Solomon, she communed with him of all that there was in her heart."

Sheba's Queen.

Solomon, apparently deeply impressed by the beauty of the Ethiopian Queen, bade her tarry at his court. She tarried, for what length of time we are not informed, and then "she turned and went

back to her own land, she and her servants." Here the Bible story ends, but the romance of the affair is carried to its climax by the ancient scribes of Abyssinia and Arabia; who aver that the Queen bore a son to Solomon, and the child was named Menelik. When young Menelik was a stripling he was sent to Jerusalem, where he was educated at his father's court. Having imbibed the lore and the wisdom of Solomon, he was sent back to Sheba, where, upon the death of his mother he became King of Ethiopia—Menelik I from whom the present Menelik, second of the name, claims direct descent.

Menelik the First.

With Menelik I there went to Ethiopia a large retinue of Israelites of royal blood and princely fortune. These people established the ruling aristocracy of the land, which still sways Abyssinia. The Abyssinians of Judean blood are said to number 400,000, and they are the masters of the 10,000,000 Ethiopians. The Abyssinians still call their country Ethiopia, the other name having been conferred upon them as a term of contempt. It means "a mixture," and apparently refers to the infusion of Israelitish blood.

Such is the story of Menelik's descent. Those uninformed persons who are wont to look upon the emperor of Abyssinia as an ordinary African negro may well open their eyes in the light of this revelation and pay proper respect to this potentate of such remarkable pretensions of pedigree; for whether Menelik is of the house of Solomon or not, his claim to that distinction entitles him to a certain sort of obeisance.

"Lion Conqueror; King of Kings." The ruler of Abyssinia certainly holds himself a dignified monarch. Witness how he styles himself: "Lion Conqueror of the Tribe of Judah, Menelik, Chosen of God, King of the Kings of Ethiopia."

There has been a romance in the life of Menelik, whose wife, Taoti, is said to be the power behind the throne. In early youth Menelik made a journey to Gondar, where he met the beautiful young princess Taoti. He loved her, and she consented to become his wife. The princess was invited to visit the court of Theodoros, emperor of Abyssinia at the time. Theodoros was smitten by the charms of the princess and married her himself, though he considerably gave his own daughter to Menelik as a bride.

Menelik never ceased to love Taoti. He became a great warrior, and was much in favor at the court. In course of time Theodoros died, by suicide, it was reported. He was succeeded by John, uncle of Menelik, Taoti, the widow, married four other men in succession, but these matings proved unhappy. Finally she married Menelik, who divorced his first wife to make room for the woman he had loved since his youth. It is said that Menelik became the successor of Emperor John through the influ-

ence of Taoti, who possessed great tact and diplomacy. The Empress is still accounted a handsome woman, though far past middle life. Menelik is now about sixty years of age.

Menelik Adopts European Dress.

In recent years Menelik has adopted some of the European ideas in dress. He now wears a hat and shoes. Nearly all his subjects go bare-headed and barefooted. Taoti, it is said, is quite vain as to her apparel. While the clothing in general is of the Ethiopian style, she is fond of silk stockings, kid gloves and slippers from Paris. It is also mentioned by those who have had opportunity to acquaint themselves with the tastes of the Empress that she is fond of

French champagne. The state garb of Emperor Menelik is made of a black leopard's skin, and the skin of a black-maned lion.

A Pure African.

Menelik is distinctly African in physiognomy. He is of great stature and strength.

Modern mechanical devices excite his curiosity, and he has been known to spend hours listening to speech and music from the phonograph. He has admitted the telephone and telegraph to his dominions, but is slow in recommending new inventions. Recently a great consignment of machinery for minting coin has been shipped to Abyssinia, and Menelik will make his own money, which heretofore has been coined in Europe.

SOME ODD OCCURRENCES IN 1903

MISS FRANCES PETITT, of Galway, N. Y., got judgment at Albany for \$4,000 for the 1,236 kisses given her in fourteen years by the village blacksmith.

L. Oliphant Dodge, owner of a flat building in Omaha, was granted a writ of injunction restraining to Mrs. E. Berge, a tenant, from talking to other occupants of the flats.

William H. Fugley caused the arrest of his wife at Mount Vernon, N. Y., on the ground of cruelty in forcing him to sleep in a chicken coop.

Persons believing in the value of horse meat for food gave a banquet in Berlin, at which 900 guests feasted.

The bite of a mosquito was charged to be the cause of the death of Carl Stromquist, of Chicago.

C. W. Leadbeater, the London theosophist, after a visit to the Chicago stock yards, declared that, instead of smoke darkening the city, it is the ghost life of the millions of animals slaughtered every year in the abattoirs.

Prof. G. Stanley Hall, of Clark University, Boston, not only proposed a tax upon bachelors, but declared that coeducation was a bar to matrimony.

A bill was introduced in the Minnesota Legislature making it unlawful for any person to kiss another unless he is able to produce a clean bill of health.

As a consequence of the famine times, Stockholm legislators proposed a tax upon all persons weighing more than 125 pounds.

Mrs. W. T. Richardson, a boarding-house keeper in Detroit, was refused coal by the clerk in a coal office, and, getting her change ready, and drawing a revolver, she held him up for a receipted bill for a ton of anthracite at \$1.50.

Twenty German poets in Berlin entered into a union, refusing to accept less than 10 cents a line for their rhymes.

Mrs. Lafayette Taylor killed her husband at Monticello, N. Y., cut his body to pieces with a knife, burned it in a stove, and fed the ashes to the chickens. Hairpins from the heads of women passengers in a Columbus, Ohio, trolley car saved a car load of belated people a long walk in the snow after a fuse had burned out.

Henry Bliss, of Chicago, was arrested and locked up because, in inviting Miss

Ida Lee to accompany him to the theater, he used a revolver to persuade her.

Gen. Nelson A. Miles' dollars, which he had deposited in a Boston house in 1890, losing the book and forgetting the name of the bank, were found in the Five Cent Savings Bank.

A cowboy named Wilson discovered two men floating down the Republican River in Nebraska, and, riding close to the shore, cast his lariet over first one and then the other of the men, drawing them ashore in safety.

The "Berlin Nuestra Nachrichten" announced the existence of a great corned beef mine in the Yellowstone Park, the deposits having been caused by the exhaling of great droves of cattle during the triocene period, the natural salts of the territory contributing to its preservation.

Don Cameron St. John, returned soldier from the Philippines, fell hair to \$100,000 from his grandmother because of his clever verses on the army life in the South Seas.

In the divorce suit of Ruthven W. Pike against his wife, the court refused the invitation of the wife's counsel to allow the jury to feel Mrs. Pike's moccasins in disproving that she ever threw ladders and cordwood at her better half.

Arthur Van Meter, a prominent merchant of Salt Lake City, suffered from dropsy, and, after a fast of forty days, in which he took nothing but water, he found himself cured.

E. C. Jones, a banker of New York gave a dinner in honor of Miss Ethel Barrymore, where the plates for twelve cost \$1,500.

An investigation by the health board of Chicago showed it to have more men and boys in proportion to women and girls than has any other large city in the world.

William W. Black, head critic in the Chicago Normal School, was placed on trial by the school powers, charged with a writ of injunction against his wife's applying for a divorce as a resident of the State of South Dakota.

Shenck & Co., at Sioux City, Idaho, sought an injunction against a shoe store to prevent the shoe dealers from selling 20-cent coffee at 5 cents a pound.

Three judges of the supreme court of New York decided that to eat in the modern quick lunch restaurant with one's hat on was quite proper.

At Oberlin college a young man hav-

ing a scholarship valued at \$75 stole two kisses from a pretty co-ed, and was expelled from the school, placing the value of the Oberlin kiss at \$37.50 apiece.

Six babies were born in five days at 263 LaSalle Street, Chicago, one girl weighing seventeen pounds.

Frank Erwin, of Chicago, in an attempt to escape from a constable, ran through alleys and barns until, in the attempt to clear the open window of a barn just above the manger, he stuck so tight that it required two constables to pull him out.

A court in Berlin decided in favor of a wife suing for a divorce on the strength of the fact that her husband wears a wig, and that she did not know it at the time of the ceremony.

Miss Mary L. Rogers, of Pawtucket, R. I., a graduate of Wellesley, and the new teacher in the high school, knocked out the captain of the football team with a blow on the nose, and landed twice on the eyes of his confederate who assisted at "breaking her in."

The National Dressmakers' Association of Chicago, condemned the woman's shirt waist.

Through a mistake on the part of Cook county officials, Mrs. Hetty Green's tax of \$1,195 on a piece of Cook county land was paid by a neighbor, and under the technicalities of the law, Hetty won when the neighbor attempted to collect the amount.

At St. Paul, Minn., a woman tried to commit suicide by swallowing six copper cents, but the method was found to be too cheap.

Mrs. James M. Strong, of Chicago, put \$300 in bills in an open-work stocking and she hasn't found it yet.

New York society opposed to street flirtations issued small buttons which when worn by young women, were to hold them immune from the attentions of the masquer.

In 1892, Mrs. Philip Miller was asked by her husband to read aloud to him, and picking up a third reader at random she began on a story of "By George, I've got to see that," exclaimed her spouse, and grabbing his hat he went, leaving her to the prosaic pursuit of a divorce.

A New York mother was given a lease for a flat by representing that her nine children "were in the cemetery" where they had been playing all morning.